



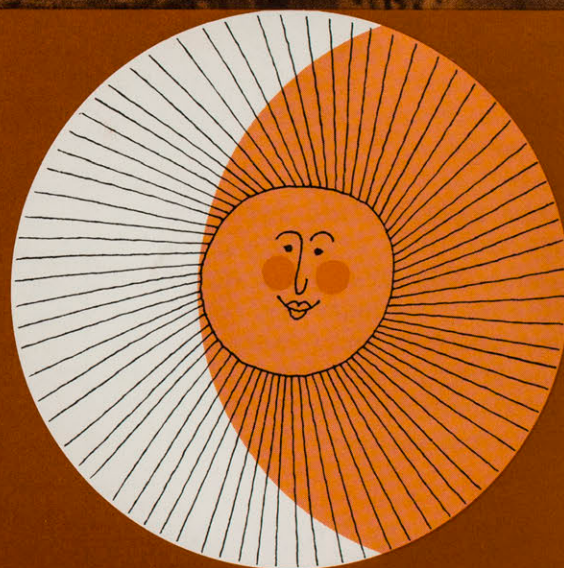
MUSEUM
ALLIANCE

QUARTERLY

LOS ANGELES
COUNTY MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY
VOL. 5 NO. 1
SUMMER ISSUE 1966



A DAY
WITH A
DOCENT



THE BULLDOZER AND THE MASTODON
STUTZ NO. 8—BACK HOME FROM INDIANAPOLIS
BIG AND LITTLE PETROGLYPH CANYONS
SPOTLIGHT



ARCHAEOLOGY STUDY TOUR

On May 6 a happy and spirited group of rugged Alliance members returned from climbing pyramids and exploring historic Indian sites in Mexico, Yucatan, Guatemala and Honduras. This tour was presented through the efforts of Mrs. Lawrence E. Irell, Chairman of the Ethnic Arts Committee.

Twenty-two people participated in this program and they took on a great deal of "South of the Border" charm and relaxation in their 21 days together. Said one, "When a conservative financial counselor bought a Mexican guitar and broke into song we knew the group was destined for a lot of fun along with the great satisfaction we were to gain through the archaeology study portion of the tour." Si, amigo!!

NEW DIMENSIONS TO DELIGHT

In March 750 members took to the shore during low tide and learned a great deal about marine life during our Tidepool Treasures event which was covered by the Los Angeles TIMES on March 13. A tidal wave of interested letters were received from enthusiastic members and those wishing to participate in the event next year. Curator Robert Lavenberg was in charge of the program.

Red Rock Canyon was the site of our second "Day In The Field"

event under the direction of Curator Dr. Reid Macdonald. As one member wrote, "Thank you very much for the wonderful day in the field. I had never seen a fossil in matrix in the field until I was fortunate enough to find my 7" fragment of rib. You will never know what a thrill this gave me. On second thought, perhaps YOU would . . ." Four such days were presented in our current series for members.

ELEPHANT HABITAT RECEPTION



A group of young Nigerians performing the Ugba-Ukwu dance (no relationship to the Watusi) delighted members and guests on the occasion of the Elephant Habitat reception. The majority of the Nigerians are in the United States participating in a training program co-sponsored by UCLA and USAID and the Nigerian Ministry of Education. They will return to their native land as qualified secondary teachers and future leaders in Education. They will also replace Americans presently employed on Nigerian projects.

HISTORY RECEPTION

Boy Scouts of the Order of the Arrow Ritual Indian Dancers entertained members at the History reception on May 10th for the Lasky-Wores painting exhibition. These young men in their teens make all of their own regalia and learn to sing and dance in the "old way," thus keeping alive the colorful traditions of the various tribes. Charles Rozaire, Curator of Archaeology, proved himself a Boy

Scout by producing a drum from the Museum's collection when the car carrying the Scout's drum failed to arrive.

CHARTER FLIGHT ANYONE?

The day a charter flight is announced is like no other most anywhere. The total membership mailing is taken to the post office on a Saturday morning to allow two days for delivery as first class mail. At an early hour on Monday, although the announcement says "don't," someone arrives to deliver his application in person . . . and the stampede is on.

Throughout the day, increasing with the afternoon hours when people return home and find their mail, the telephone rings with a quickening tempo. A question which is really answered in the third paragraph—a complaint that the flight leaves a day too soon—is a week too short to fit into the plans of a specific family—why isn't the flight going into Spain, Greece, Israel or via New York.

The questions and the complaints, plus all the comments, are the reasons why Museum Alliance charter flights have become so popular. For they have alerted the planners to the desires and prospective beefs of travelers, thus creating charters and tours that are tailor-made for members. Before too long Alliance members will take flights that will drop them off anywhere they want to go, fly them anywhere while they are abroad, bring them home any time they wish to return. They will be able to order in advance what they want to eat, have leftovers frozen for the dog until their return, all sit up front where there are only two seats on a side . . . How soon? Well, we understand that Utopia Airlines has applied for an operating permit from the CAB.

Meanwhile, back in the Museum Alliance office, the phone rings and a former Board member says, "What a long way we've come since the first flight in 1962."

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QUARTERLY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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DOCENT

Short for Privatdocent

A New Concept in Museum Service

by Richard Lipscomb
Museum Education Specialist



Major museums throughout the United States are turning more and more to trained volunteers to carry on a multitude of duties that are "beyond the budget"—and which, in many cases, money can't buy.

These volunteers may give curatorial help, have research projects, instruct school classes in museum galleries, serve as a Speakers Bureau in the community as public relations agents for the museum, and act as hostesses and guides at museum functions, such as preview openings and tours away from the museum.

At the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History these volunteers are called Docents which, according to Webster, means "originally short for PRIVATDOCENT, now a teacher or lecturer."

No previous museum work experience is required for admission into the Los Angeles Museum's Docent Training Program, although the question appears on the application. The important factors are the applicant's intelligence and a brisk enthusiasm for what the Museum offers.

It's a tough chore to undertake. The neophyte Docent, one of 25 chosen yearly, enters a one year training program during which she and the other Docents meet every other week for instruction in one particular gallery of the Museum. This instruction is usually by the curator in charge of the hall to be studied.

The Los Angeles Docent Training Program is organized and conducted by Miss Gretchen Sibley. Besides planning all training Miss Sibley gives supplemental lectures providing in-depth views of the Museum's holdings. Docents claim that Miss Sibley's knowledge, warmth and enthusiasm pervade the whole Docent program.

During the training period each Docent tackles two research projects. Access to laboratories, plus curatorial assistance, help in preparation of the selected topics.

And because of the broad educational program Docents have the unique privilege of probing and poking behind the scenes where the public is not ordinarily permitted.

And after training, what? The preparation has given the Docent broad

insights into the Museum as a whole. Now she may chose an area, or areas, for more specialized work during the next two years—for, by accepting the educational opportunity afforded by training, now she is expected to spend one day a week, or its equivalent, at the Museum giving service.

Applications for Docent Training at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History are referred to Miss Gretchen Sibley, of the Museum's Division of Education. The 1966-67 class is full; applicants will receive interviews by appointment for the following year.



A Day with a Docent



On alternate Thursdays, Janet Cornyn, a Docent-in-Training at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, drives in through the Museum parking gates to invade the colorful world of history and science.



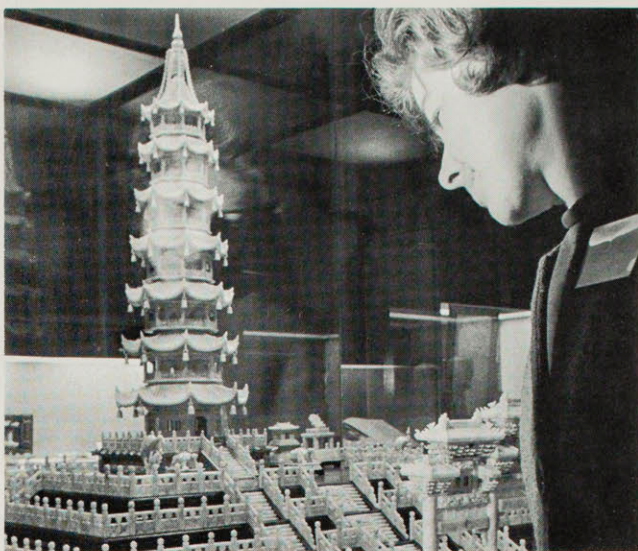
She enters the Museum via the Education Division's east wing and shortly finds herself in a cheery room among other amiable, interested women — like herself Docents-in-Training.



After a briefing, the Docents carry their folding chairs and writing materials to their lecture-classroom of the day, the partly completed Pre-Columbian Hall. Here Dr. Charles Rozaire, Curator of Archeology, discusses the history, rites and significance of early Central and South American civilizations.



Later Dr. Rozaire shares with them the mysteries of never-yet-displayed objects in an attic storage area. What an opportunity to browse!



Janet could spend the day in the attic but there isn't time. She has other areas to explore. Striking off on her own she visits the World of Jade exhibit. Here the most arresting object is a sacred pagoda carved completely of jade.



On the third floor, open only to Museum personnel, Lloyd Martin, Associate Curator of Entomology, shows Janet how rare specimens of Lepidoptera are stored. Docents are allowed inspection privileges—through the laboratory microscope.



In a completely diverse area, Russell Smith, Education Division Chief, shows Janet the model of a brig of the kind which explored the Columbia River in the early days. This is only one of many loan items available from the Education Division.



In the History offices Janet sits in on a lecture given second year working Docents by Russell Belous, Curator of Western History. Today he is covering a collection of arms and armor. After the talk Janet inspects a rifle.



Ruth Mahood, Chief Curator of History, lets Janet puzzle over beauty paraphernalia used during the mid-19th century.



Afterwards, in the future Dinosaur Hall Dr. Reid Macdonald, Senior Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, shows Janet a Triceratops skull measuring seven feet from beak to frill, the proud result of a dig organized to discover Museum specimens.



Meanwhile, in the Hall of Evolving Life Miss Gretchen Sibley has been instructing a class in comparisons of ape and human forms. Janet joins them for part of the lecture.



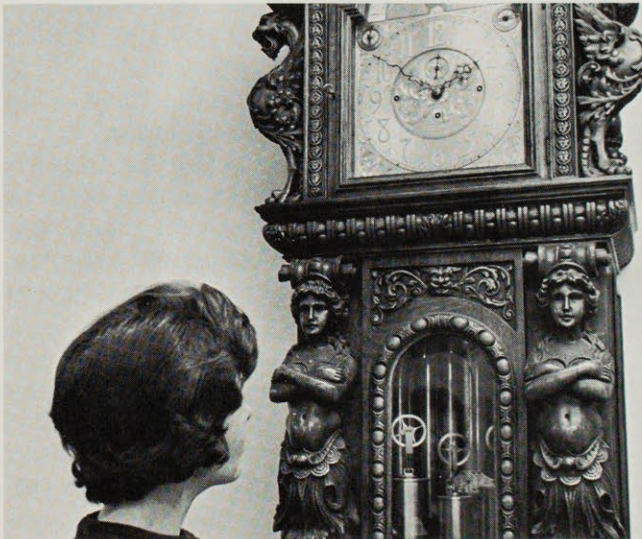
Janet is fascinated by the thought of guiding school classes. She has two children of her own and this Docent activity appeals to her strongly. She meets school children and their teachers on the front steps of the Museum



... and tags along as they go into the La Brea Hall of prehistoric animals.



Replete, yet refreshed, Janet rushes off to pick up her children, Leslie and Jim, at school. On this particular Thursday Janet has left the Museum—but the Museum will never completely leave her. And her own enrichment is an immediate benefit to her family and friends.



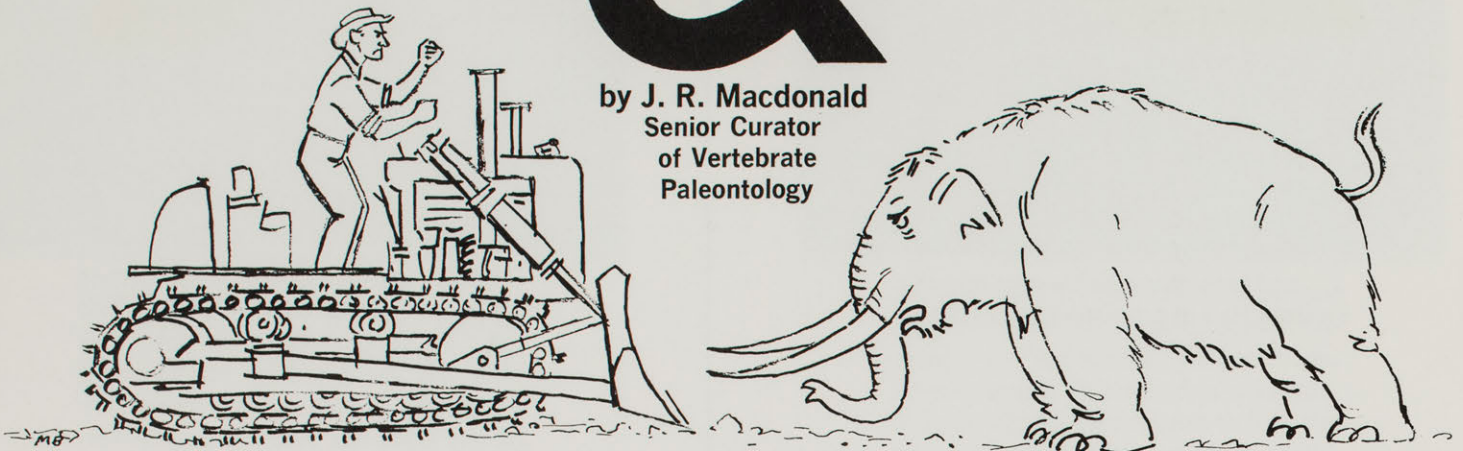
But even in a timeless museum the present has a way of intruding. Janet notices the time with a start—and remembers her own children.



P.S. Janet comes back that same night to serve as a hostess at a preview opening for members.

The Bulldozer & The Mastodon

by J. R. Macdonald
Senior Curator
of Vertebrate
Paleontology



What happens when bulldozer meets Mastodon? Who comes out on top when a Mammoth and a ditcher come face to face? You don't have to turn to your favorite science fiction magazine or TV show to find out. Every day on many construction jobs this question is being answered. Generally the mastodon or the mammoth comes out second best. In fact he may pass completely unnoticed and be ground up into small pieces without a murmur.

To those of us in the digging sciences, particularly paleontology and archaeology, any construction project involving the removal of sedimentary rocks is a matter of interest as specimens of great scientific importance are often uncovered in these operations. It is only through the sharp eyes of the workers and the cooperation of the contractors that they may be preserved for science.

The basic problem is that scientists seem to scare contractors more than weather, unexpected ledge-rock, or breakdowns. This doesn't apply to all scientists, just those who collect fossils and Indian artifacts. Why the fear? The same reason as the fear of weather and breakdowns: delays on the job; find a fossil or an artifact and some impractical egghead is going to putter

around, get underfoot and invoke a fine-print contract clause to shut you down while he digs.

This fear is generally unjustified in spite of an occasional bad experience, and the average digging-type scientist is usually more of a roughneck than an egghead. Many of the important finds in Paleontology and Archaeology have been made while earth-moving by contractors was underway. With the cooperation and often the active help of the people on the ground, scientists have been able to get quickly into a job, get their specimens and get out without disrupting or delaying the work.

What does the constructor get out of assisting in this sort of an operation? Several things: Satisfaction in helping to add to the sum total of human knowledge; a possible tax benefit for assisting a museum or university, useful publicity and public image, or even a chance for a form of immortality by having a heretofore unknown animal named for you; your name will be in the scientific literature as long as science exists. Just as I am writing this paragraph, my assistant is heading out with a TV camera crew to examine a find made this morning on a job in Arcadia; large bones have been uncovered in a gravel

bank. I'm betting it will be a mammoth or a mastodon, but we should know by the time I finish this article. We'll see later how it comes out.

A few examples of finds during construction might be of interest to you. Just after World War II when I was a graduate student at the University of California, a new aqueduct was being built into the San Francisco Bay area. A call from the contractor told us at the Museum of Paleontology that they had found an elephant tusk in the bottom of their ditch. As usual in such cases, we were on our way to Walnut Creek as soon as possible. A survey crew had been laying final grade on the bottom of the 12' x 12' trench when the stake artist couldn't get one of the stakes into the ground. A little digging revealed a tusk instead of the expected rock. Our examination showed that in addition to the tusk there was a pair of mastodon jaws sticking out of the bank with the back ends cut off. We climbed up on the spoil pile and found fist sized chunks of mastodon bone scattered for nearly a quarter of a mile. The ditcher had gone through an entire skeleton and thrown it out after a thorough chewing. The contractor left out a pipe section until we could

pull the tusk and jaws. In return we got a new record of the Ice Age life of that area, there was a nice article with picture in the local and San Francisco papers which gave the contractor and crew a pat on the head, and the job wasn't really held up a bit. One problem developing from the size of today's earth moving equipment is the operator's distance from the business end of the machine. He is so far away he can't recognize bones and other material when they are being dug out.

In South Dakota during the Spring of 1953, the Summit Construction Co. of Rapid City was rebuilding a stretch of U.S. 83 between Mission and the Nebraska line. They were getting select borrow from a sand pit about 12 miles north of Mission. W. C. Rounds, the president of Summit, sent three fossil horse teeth to the Museum of Geology of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. These had been picked up on the site. I went out to investigate the find and discovered that the pit was a five acre remnant of an early Pliocene (10,000,000 year old) stream channel deposit about 25' thick. It was "loaded" with fossils of ancient mammals. The D-8's were pushing sand and gravel into a hopper where it was being belted up to a set of shaking screens. The over-sized discard was filled with fossil bones. The next few weeks I spent (every moment I could get away from my classes) standing at the bottom of the chute with a garden rake rescuing limb bones and pieces of skulls and jaws before they were shattered by falling rock. In addition to a king sized collection of cuts, abrasions, and bruises, I got a fabulous collection of animal remains. The fauna included a giant rodent; four types of dogs ranging from wolf-size to grizzly bear-size; a mastodon; seven types of horses represented by limbs, jaws and hundreds of loose teeth; a tapir; a rhinoceros; peccary; six types of camels and an antilocaprid. We recovered a vital record of ancient life in the Great Plains area and did not interfere with Summit's operation. In fact, we may have aided it, as the State

inspectors were busy looking for fossils much of the time. The collecting method was certainly not one to be recommended, but under the circumstances it was the only way it could be done. One of the cat-skinners did find a complete rhino skull as it was hooked out of the bank on a cut. He pulled back in time, and an inspector gathered it up in a box for me to reassemble later. The result of the operation: a good collection for the Museum, a scientific paper for me to write describing a little more of the life of the past (including the description and naming of a new species of camel), and good publicity and PR for the Summit Construction Co.

Here in the Los Angeles area, we have been very fortunate to have a great deal of cooperation from builders and contractors. It would be impossible to list or recount all of the local finds of note which were made possible only through the good offices of the contractor. Three or four will typify our good fortune.

When the excavation for California Federal Savings' building was being dug by Vinnell, Haas, and

This time it was the Bulldozer and the Mammoth. The skeleton of a Mammoth was uncovered by a bulldozer while digging the basement for the Sparkletts Plant in Eagle Rock. The top of the skull was lost to the blade of the dozer, but most of the rest of the skeleton was saved and will someday be mounted at the Museum.



Hayme, the Museum was called in when they hit an asphalt-impregnated sand pocket. As this site is just two blocks from the famous Rancho La Brea tar pits, we were particularly interested to see if any new animals would show up. As it turned out, we got about a cubic yard of mixed bones and matrix which produced twenty kinds of mammals and birds, including parts of the famous sabre-tooth cat and the great dire wolf.

A similar find was reported when Tomovich and Son were laying a sewer along La Brea Avenue in 1963, about a mile from the Tar Pits. Within a two block stretch, three different bone-bearing sites were found, from which we were given or collected a number of important specimens. From one of these sites, an asphalt impregnated sand pocket, we got parts of eleven types of mammals, including our first record of "musk ox" and ten kinds of birds.

In 1958, C. E. Meier, contracting a flood control project in Los Angeles, hit a tusk and neck vertebrae of a Mammoth while digging a jacking pit. The Museum was called in, and the removal of the specimen, which included a skull, was started. There was a great deal of publicity, and the area was mobbed with reporters and TV cameramen. Unfortunately the specimen seemed to be going under a property line,

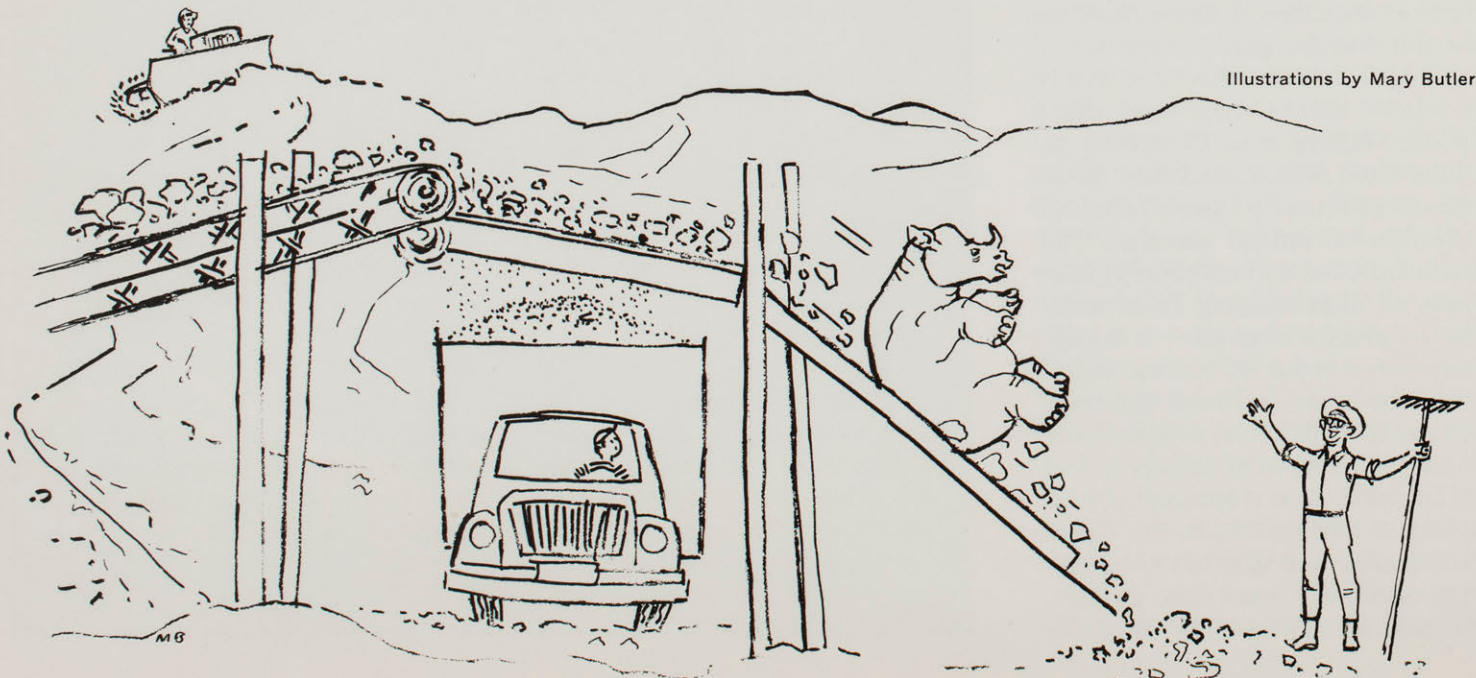
and the owner decided that here was a chance to make a fortune. A lawyer was called to warn the Museum away, and a pushing match developed in which the Museum photographer's camera was smashed. The people on the project were with us all the way, but under the circumstances we abandoned the skull, taking only the tusk, bones and a tooth which were on the right side of the property line. The net result was a new record for the area but the loss of a Mammoth skull which would probably have gone on exhibit with both the contractor's and the property owner's name on the label.

A final note before bringing this to a close. Two housing land development projects in Orange County have recently given us a large and important collection of fossils to our record of life of the past from this area. Rossmore's Leisure World development near El Toro, through the cooperation of the entire organization and under the leadership of Mr. W. Earl Calhoun, an amateur collector who works on the project, has provided us with a large collection of 15,000,000 year old Miocene marine mammal, fish, and bird remains. We have been allowed to collect specimens as the area was graded without seriously upsetting operations. At a nearby project, Macco Homes, Inc., a local high school boy, Paul Langenwal-

ter, found some Pleistocene (Ice Age) fossils in a gully. The Macco Company assisted by removing some overburden for us. The material was used in publicity released by the builders, displayed in the tract office, and then presented to the Museum. We now have a good record of giant bison, a mammoth, horse, ground sloth and other animals from this area.

I could go on, but the message is clear. You can help science by helping us and in addition to some satisfaction get some nice publicity on the side. The question of what to do until the doctor (of vertebrate paleontology, that is,) comes always is an immediate worry when you find a fossil. Protection is the key word. Cover the find with paper, boards, and dirt so that it is not exposed to either people or weather. If possible, a factured specimen should be hardened with shellac. If the find has to be removed from its original site, be careful to pick up all of the pieces that can be found and mark the spot so the professional investigator can return to it.

Oh yes, I told you I'd let you know what my assistant found when he took off with the TV people. Believe it or not, it was a modern whale skeleton from Alaska that someone had buried in a vacant lot so that the last of the flesh and connective tissue would rot away. Well, you can't win them all!



Illustrations by Mary Butler

STUTZ

No. 8

Back Home from Indianapolis

By Norwood Teague,
Curator of Mechanical Sciences

The rear-engine Ford Lotus is the new king of automobile racing.

Yet old die-hards never really die. The nostalgic lovers of front-engine roadsters, determined to pluck the blossoms—and the laurels—from the Lotus, came back strong in the Indianapolis Memorial Day 500 this year.

Veteran driver Bob Grimm ripped off a 160.144 m.p.h. lap during practice with a roadster built a few years ago by A. J. Watson, the Glendale builder who designed and assembled six winning cars for the 500 since 1956. The roadster, prepared

and entered by Herb Porter of Gardena, made the run with the fastest average speed ever recorded by a racer like it on the 2½ mile track.

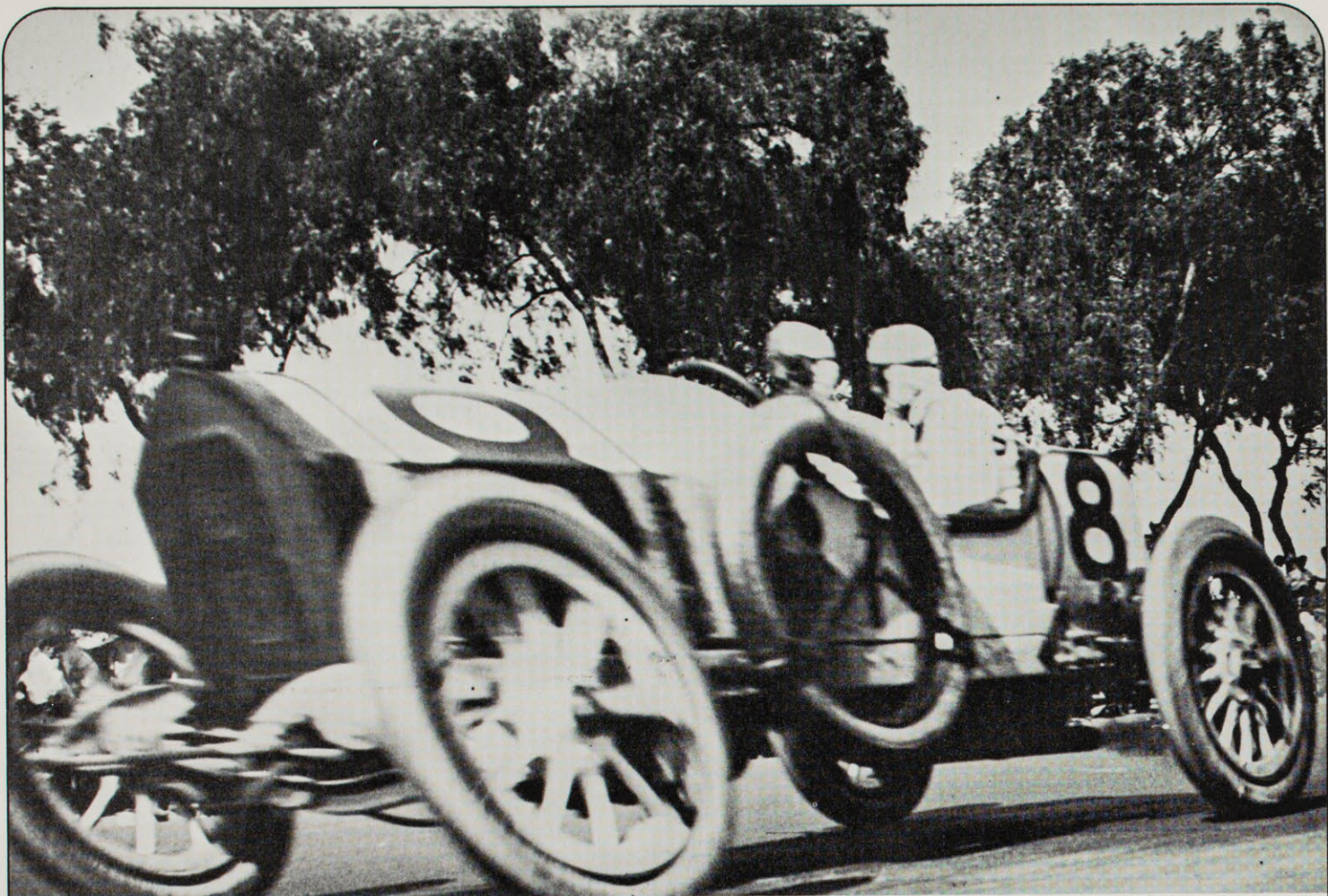
With its new turbo-charged Offenhauser power plant, the roadster was hopeful of a successful challenge of the Lotus. An historic crash on the first turn changed challenge to calamity. With a score of others Bob Grimm was out of the race.

But one thing is sure. His efforts will bring the front-engine roadsters out of the museums to which they were relegated when the rear-engines took over.

Which brings us to old gal-

lant Stutz No. 8, back home in the Transportation Hall of the Museum after a six-year loan to the Speedway Museum at Indianapolis. It was just 53 years ago that the Stutz was the chief hope of American enthusiasts to wrest racing laurels from European entries in the grueling 100, 300 or 500 mile contests.

Stutz No. 8 was born some time in 1913, the product of the Stutz Motor Car Company, organized by Harry C. Stutz, a former race car driver. A young Californian, Earl Cooper, was signed to drive the car and established his reputation in it.



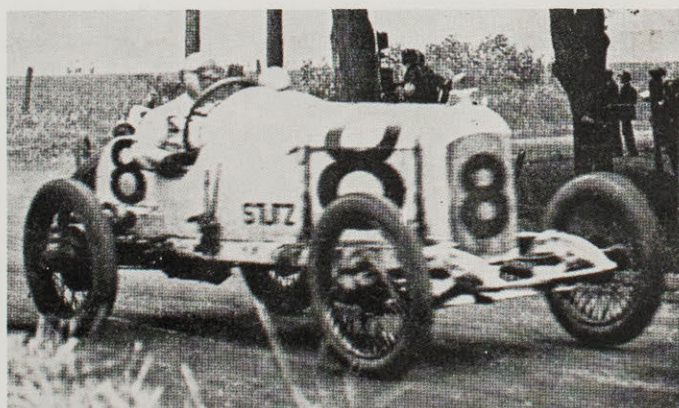
Above—CORONA—September 9, 1913.
Note the wooden wheels, part of the original equipment. The car had a 436 cu. in. displacement, 4 cylinder engine and a triangular radiator.

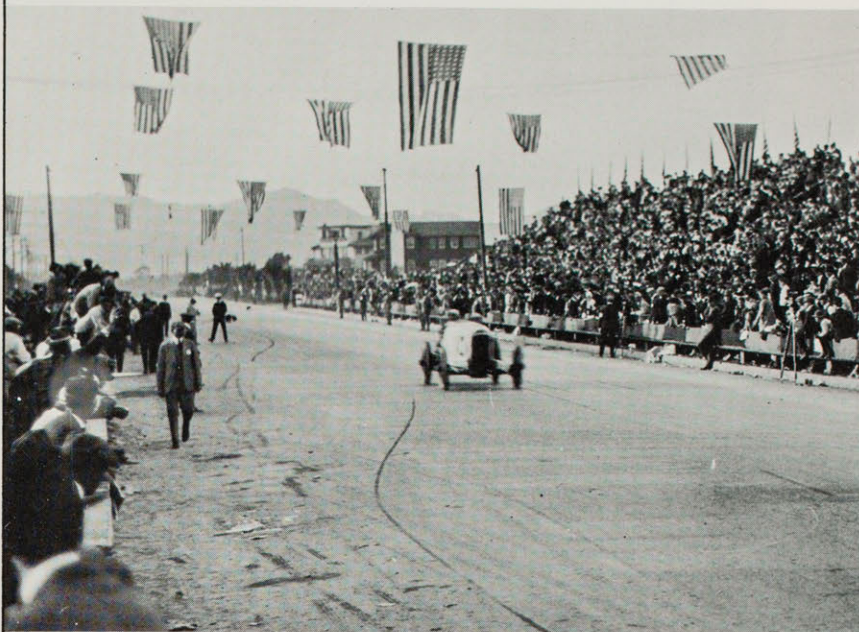
Below—Earl Cooper roars into straightaway at Elgin Road Race, 1915. After being forced out of the Indianapolis 500 in 1914 just past the half-way mark because of a broken wheel, the wooden wheels were replaced with Rudge-Whitworth wire wheels.

Partial Log For Stutz No. 8

1913		
September 9	Corona—250 miles	1st Place
.....	Corona—300 miles	1st Place
.....	Tacoma	1st Place
.....	Santa Monica	1st Place
1914		
February 26	Vanderbilt Cup	4th Place
February 28	Grand Prize	Broke valve
May 30	Indianapolis	Broke wheel
November 26	Corona	Stripped timing
		gears 2 laps from finish
		while in second place
1915		
January 9	San Diego Exposition	1st Place
February 27	Grand Prize	Broke connecting rod
March 6	Vanderbilt Cup	Water in fuel tank
March 18	Venice Grand Prix	Broken radiator
April 5	Ascot "Match" Race	2nd Place
	(three cars)	
April 30	Oklahoma City	Spun out
June 1	Indianapolis "500"	4th Place
June 26	Chicago Classic	5th Place
.....	Chicago "Match" Race	2nd Place
	(three cars)	
1916		
November 16	Vanderbilt Cup	2nd Place
November 18	Grand Prize	2nd Place
1919		
May 30	Indianapolis	11th Place
.....	Ascot	

NOTE: Earl Cooper died 22 October 1965 at his home in Atwater, California, and is buried in Merced.





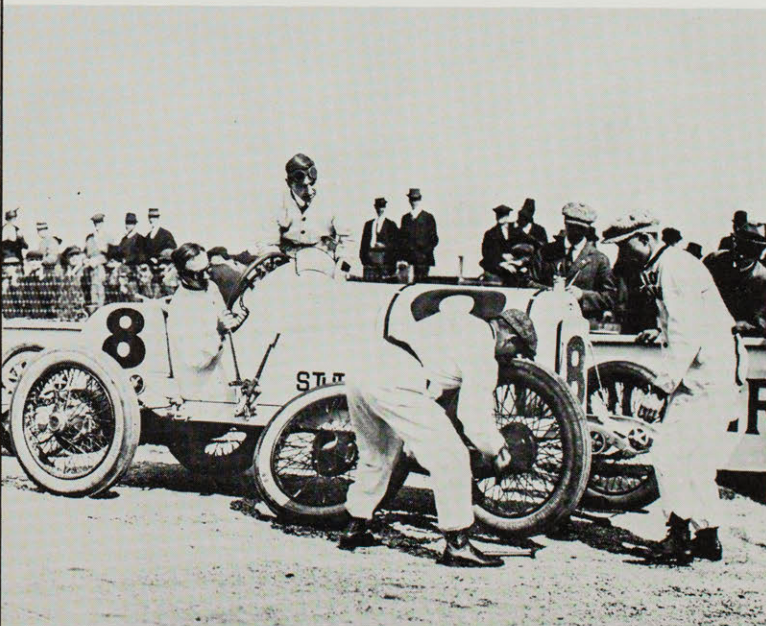
Top right—Earl Cooper in Stutz No. 8—
He won the National Road-Race
Championship in 1917, a repeat of
his 1915 triumph.

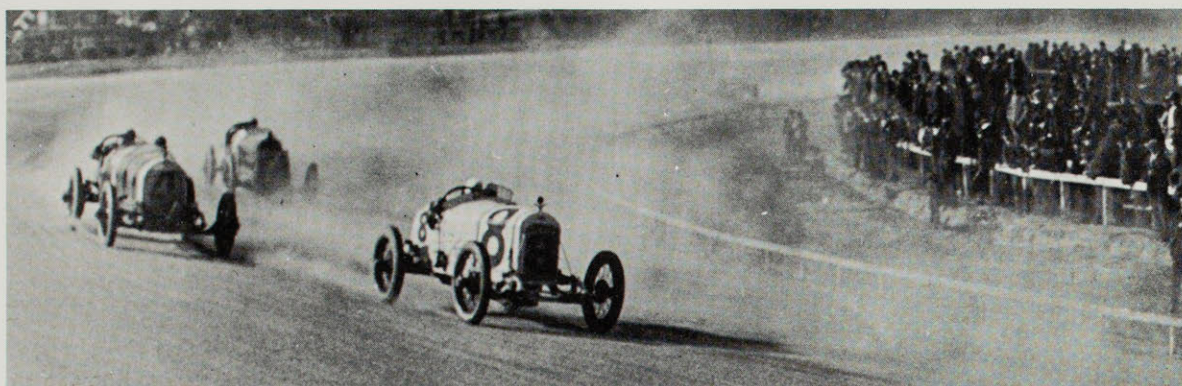
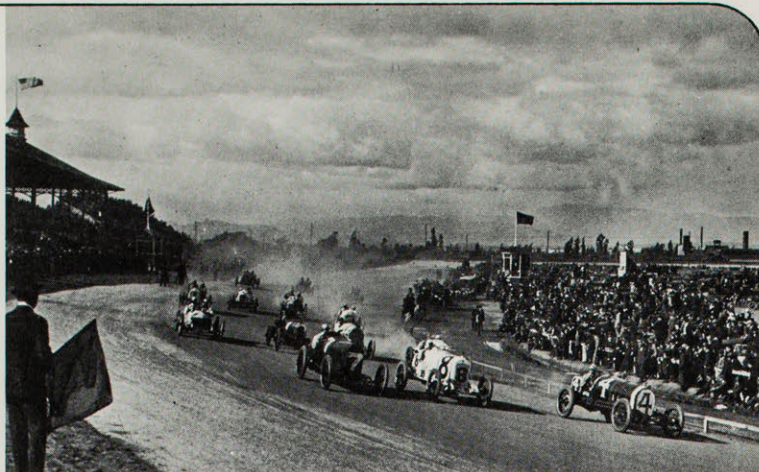
Top left—Stutz No. 8—Santa Monica,
1916. The year before a brand new engine
and a new body were installed in old
No. 8. The engine was a 296 cu. in.
displacement, 4 cylinder Wisconsin with
dual ignition, overhead cam and sixteen
valves. Although the “new” Stutz made
a fine showing the European entries
still ruled.

Middle left—Miss Mabel Normand, famous
movie star as Mascot, Vanderbilt and Grand
Prize races at Santa Monica,
November 16, 17, 1916.

Bottom left—Pit Stop—Tire Change . . .
Some pit stops can be both humorous
and disastrous. In 1916’s Vanderbilt Cup
Race at San Francisco, according to
the *Los Angeles Times*, “Harry Grant,
holding a brand new Stutz contract and
taking Cooper’s place in the Stutz No. 8,
drove to his pit in the fifty-first lap with
a great roar of cylinders. His nimble
mechanician was on the ground before the
car had stopped. He seized the can
breathlessly shoved at him across the pit
bench and poured its contents into the gas
tank. In another second the car was off
and in another second the car began
to cough and gasp as though attacked
by whooping cough.

“The mechanic and Grant both tore
off the hood. No trouble. Then the gas
cap was whirled loose. Grant swore, the
mechanician rubbed his eyes. The tank
was filled with water.”



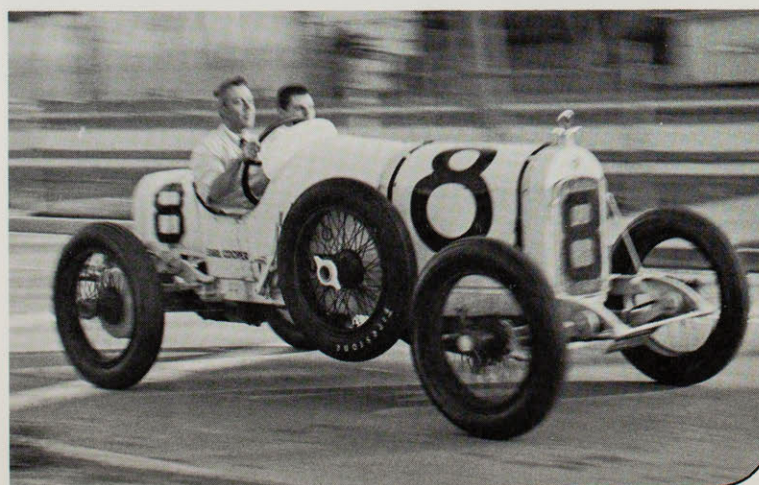
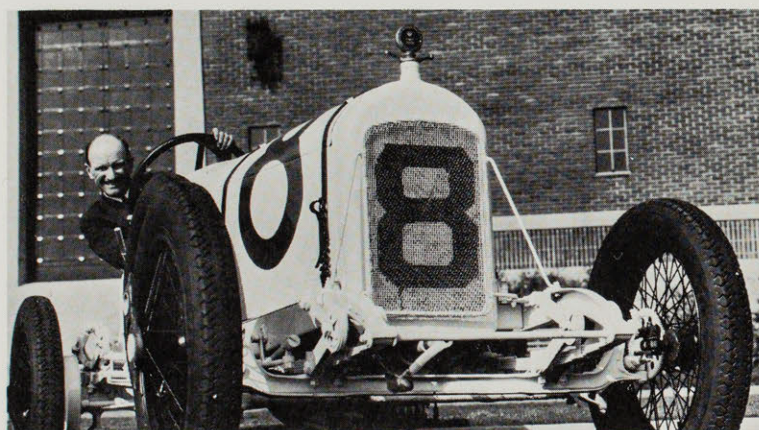


Top right—Ascot, Los Angeles, 1919—
The gallant roadster is shown in one of its
last two races. The only other 1919 race
was the Indianapolis 500.

Upper middle right—Ascot, a few seconds
later. This race was one of the last dirt
track, dust developing races.

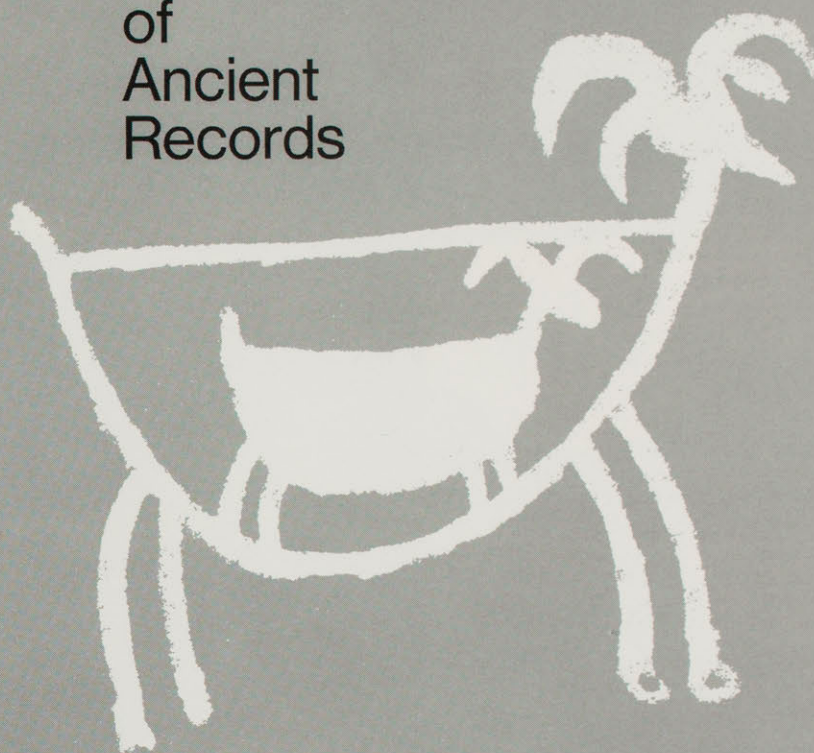
Lower middle right—Earl Cooper and his
famous Stutz in 1935 at presentation time
to the Los Angeles County Museum.
During the 20's the car was used for
publicity, then consigned to the bone yard.
Cooper sold the car to a Northern
Californian; later, urged by the late
Ransom Matthews, Curator of Mechanical
Sciences, he bought it back, replaced
the original body and gave it to
the Museum.

Bottom right—Back home from
Indianapolis—Stutz No. 8 roars again in
Exposition Park after return from its
Speedway Museum loan. At the wheel:
Norwood Teague. With him, James
Zordich, Preparator of Industrial
Technology.



Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons—

Rockbound
Archives
of
Ancient
Records



by Kenneth H. Robinson
Director, Maturango Museum,
China Lake, California

High in the barren mountains of the Upper Mojave Desert between the Coso and the Argus ranges lie two rugged canyons. Their nearly vertical walls have been eroded through ancient basaltic lava flows. Scratched, carved and picked into the red-brown rocks are many thousands of petroglyphs ("petro"-rock; "glyphs" - carvings)—chiseled records left by "Early, Early Californians" over thousands of years.

Similar rock carvings occur all over the world. Archaeologists conclude that this form of artistic expression by early man served as an aid to spiritual and food gathering

activities. Since the canvasses (rocks) and brushes (harder rocks) were plentiful and available, only man's need or imagination was required to inscribe lasting designs for us to view.

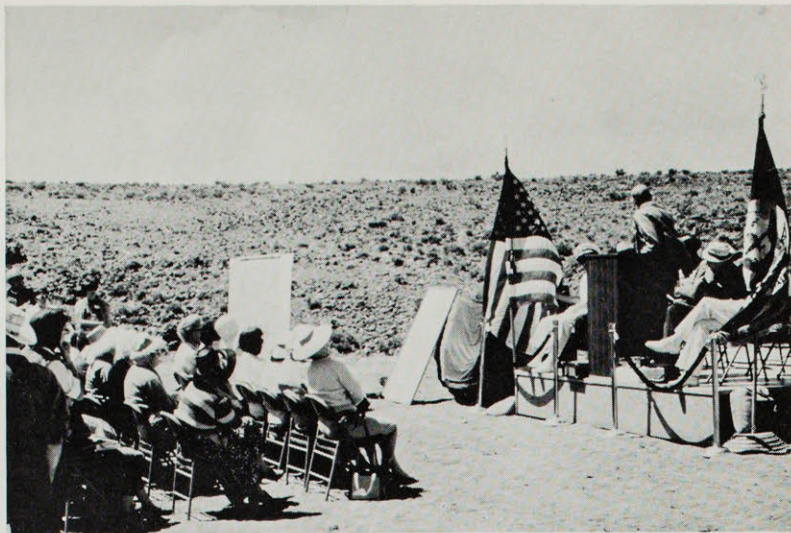
Known as BIG AND LITTLE PETROGLYPH CANYONS, these two canyons are located 180 miles north of Los Angeles and about 20 miles east of U. S. Highway 14—opposite Little Lake—at an elevation of 5,000 feet. The canyons lie in a desolate area, devoid of trees, surrounded by features with such picturesque names as Wild Horse Mesa, Volcano Butte and Louisiana Butte. Several springs provide wa-

ter for animals and birds. An occasional Joshua tree finds root and the ever prevailing creosote bush dots the landscape. A few wild burros, horses, ravens, jackrabbits, coyotes, chukar, foxes, quail and snakes now inhabit a vast area which once supported herds of deer, antelope, and big horn sheep. The primitive men who lived here apparently found good hunting.

The Indians who eked out an existence here, perhaps as long ago as 2000 B. C., were, most probably, of the Shoshone ethnic group. One authority speaks of them as part of the Numic linguistic family known as Panamint-Shoshone. Primarily



Left: Dedicatory plaque set in a large boulder containing glyphs—entrance to Little Petroglyph Canyon



Top right: Dedication of the landmark May 22, 1965, by the commander of NOTS, Captain J. I. Hardy, U. S. N.

Bottom right: Early ordnance exercise—Splay Foot vs. Little Club Foot. Indians in this area made very superior bows of juniper. Only 12 miles to the west is a whole mountainside of black obsidian for arrowhead, spear point and knife manufacture.



hunters, they spent winters in the deep, warmer valleys and migrated to the higher ranges 5,000 feet to 8,000 feet in the summers for hunting and for the gathering of pinon nuts for winter food. As they traveled, they left records of their hunts—among other places—on the walls of Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons.

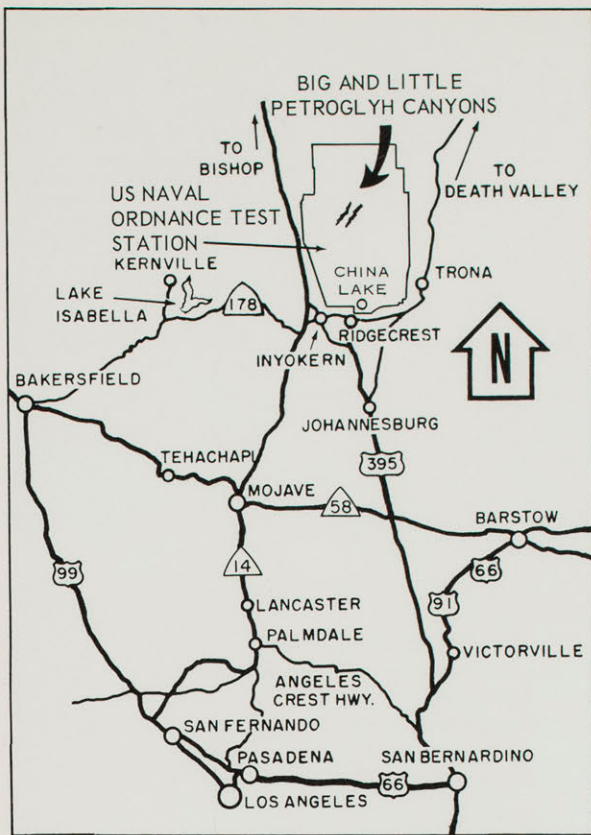
Our source for much of the interpretations of petroglyphs is the excellent treatise **Prehistoric Rock Art of Nevada and Eastern California** by Robert F. Heizer and Martin A. Baumhoff. (University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles 1962) Reporting on a three-year study of 99 Nevada sites and 42 Eastern California sites from Inyo County northward, the authors conclude that, "We feel that for the first time we have demon-

strated that petroglyphs in Nevada and eastern California are evidence of the purposeful and rational action of prehistoric peoples. They are not aimless "doodling," nor are they deliberate and planned expressions of the artistic impulse. We think that we have proved that petroglyphs in the area we have studied are to be understood as a part of the economic pursuit of hunting large game (deer, antelope, and mountain sheep). We have found few or no indications that suggest an association with seed collecting, rabbit hunting, or fishing. Thus, petroglyphs are part of the magical or ritual aspect of taking large game. The petroglyph designs themselves must have had some meaning to their individual makers, but what a spiral, a snake, a lizard, or a grid design actually signified

in the maker's mind at the time he fashioned it we are not, and probably never will be able to say. . . ."

Petroglyphs are very difficult to date with any precision, since neither the rocks nor the patina or desert varnish through which the designs were carved are susceptible to analytic dating methods such as Carbon 14. As a generalization, Heizer and Baumhoff state that the latest appear to have been made about 1600 A.D., while the oldest may have been made 3000 to 5000 B.C. The oldest glyphs are thought to be more deeply incised, very simple in form, often geometric. The more recent depict animals, men and some action.

Readers interested in more detailed study of the evidence and conclusions would be well advised to purchase a copy of the Heizer



Left: Area Map.

Top right: Visiting group viewing glyphs at entrance to Little Petroglyph Canyon. In this short distance more than 100 glyphs can be found.

Bottom right: A busy cliffside. Identified are 8 or 9 big horn sheep, a katchina, 2 long tailed mammals (mountain lion, fox or coyote are speculated) and circle with 7 dots.

and Baumhoff book, which contains a host of bibliographic references, photographs and sketches.

What does one see at Little Petroglyph Canyon? A conservative estimate of the number of petroglyphs on a one-mile walk is 15,000. One large boulder has a total of 168 recognizable carvings. These include, among the more exciting glyphs, mountain sheep, deer, horned human figures, stick human figures and Katchina figures, snakes, birds and rain symbols, plus hundreds of geometric forms. To classify the types of figures, Heizer and Baumhoff set up 58 different categories, called elements. Along this mile walk, they noted 149 examples of 25 different elements. Further elements have since been identified as plant forms, lizards, ladders and the atlatl, a primitive throwing device.

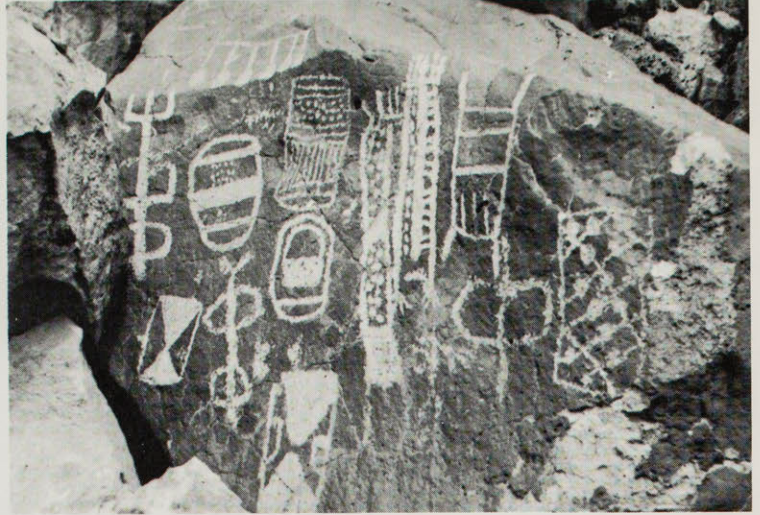
The photographs on these pages give the reader an idea of the country, as well as the variety of design and the profusion of the carvings. Petroglyphs are not easy subjects to photograph, as some are not deeply incised, others are weathered and there often is a lack of contrast.

What does one feel on seeing this rock art? Primarily a great respect for the resolute people who could live, hunt, raise families and find time to record their actions on stone. One reaction often heard is that some of the art forms are much like children's drawings. Quite so, but these rock artists had been forced to develop fire making, shelter building, weapon construction, hunting, seed and nut gathering and storage in order to exist. The need to make petroglyphs to influ-

ence or celebrate the hunt must have been overpowering—justifying the belief that these symbols were important in helping the tribe to stay alive.

A few miles to the northwest of Little Petroglyph Canyon is Big Petroglyph Canyon, so named because it is deeper and longer. It is also harder to visit, a four-wheeled-drive vehicle being required. Here also thousands of rock carvings, much the same in character and age, reward the hardy visitor. A photograph of the canyon entrance shows the extensively rough character of the landscape.

The more recent history of this area bridges the gaps between the primitive Indian Culture, the Early and often Wild West, and the 20th Century. Probably the first American explorer to pass close by was



Top left: Embryology—1000 B.C.? or merely one drawing over another.

Bottom left: A very sharply carved group. Four big horns or antelope, a stick figure of a man and the wavy lined design called a rake.

Top right: Many patterns are seen on this slab, mostly unexplained. Each viewer forms his own best "guesstimate" on many forms.

Joseph Reddeford Walker, who discovered the pass (See map) now bearing his name in 1834. Entering the desert from the west, Walker, with two Indian guides traveled up through the Owens Valley. He led the first settlers back over the pass as early as 1843, and in 1845 led the third Fremont Expedition back down the valley and over the pass. Richard Owens, for whom the Owens Valley was named by Fremont, and Kit Carson were members of this party.

In 1849 the heroic scouts of William Manly and John Rogers passed less than 20 miles south of Little Petroglyph Canyon, walking west from Death Valley toward the Sierra Nevada. They had volunteered to try to walk to the Los Angeles area and to return to the party of

helpless men, women and children stranded in the valley. Without maps and with meager food they reached help, brought back food and saved all the party still alive.

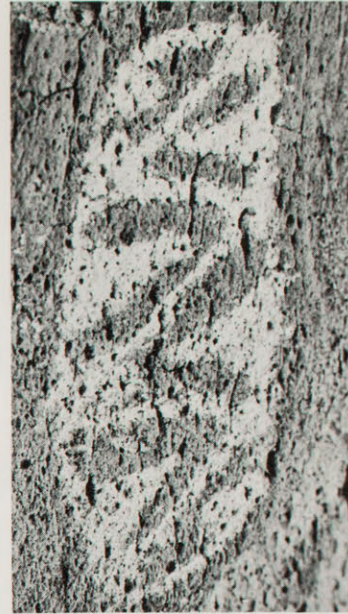
In the 1850's miners poured over the Sierra Nevada in search of more gold. Over the next 25 years, rip-roaring mining towns like Old Coso Village, Cerro Gordo, Darwin, Panamint City, and Ballarat grew, flourished and died.

Proud, powerful and warlike, the Shoshonean Indians resisted but, as inevitably happened, the some 2,000 Indians living in the area of the Owens Valley were subjugated and decimated.

At the peak of the mining period, 1868-1874, several scheduled stagecoaches each week struggled up to the mines from Los Angeles, San

Bernardino and Bakersfield. One route passed within a half-mile of Little Petroglyph Canyon. Remi Nadeau, Los Angeles freighter, ran the Cerro Gordo Freighting Company. At the peak of the trade, with stations set up 15 to 20 miles apart, Nadeau's mule-driven wagons hauled a total of 9,000 tons of goods and bullion to and from Los Angeles. Bandits, including Tiburcio Vasquez, lurked along the route. A group of rocks at the foot of Walker Pass is still known as Robbers' Roost, commemorating a Vasquez raid on the stage route.

From 1908 to 1913 the dusty roads were alive with tons of steel pipe and cement as Los Angeles reached 250 miles northward for the clear water of the Owens Valley. The Southern Pacific Railroad



Top left: Amateur photographers, tired but entranced, walk up the sandy bottom of Little Petroglyph Canyon toward the automobiles. Holes are often found, two to three feet deep, containing small amounts of fresh water. These are dug by the wild burros.

Bottom left: Busy puzzler—some obviously are carved over dimmer, older figures.

Top right: Designs for?

built a 120 miles spur for the job. The aqueduct still supplies over 60% of the potable water for the metropolis and a second pipeline is now under construction.

In 1943, as an outgrowth of the rocket development at the California Institute of Technology, the U.S. Navy established the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) in the Indian Wells Valley. This has grown into the Navy's largest research, development and testing laboratory. Here live some 12,000 people—scientists, engineers, naval officers and men together with their families.

Such weapons as the 2.75 inch Mighty Mouse, Sidewinder ASROC, and Shrike were conceived, developed and placed into production by NOTS under the direction of the

Bureau of Ordnance and, later, the Bureau of Naval Weapons.

A note of interest—some 10 miles west of the petroglyph sites is an enormous deposit of obsidian, raw material for arrowpoints, spearheads and knives. This cache was used probably for several thousands of years by the Indians, who fashioned superior weapons from the glassy volcanic deposits. So good were these implements that Indians from the coast came to the Indian Wells Valley to trade for them.

Today, the valley has once again returned to the development of weapons, although there have been some "advances" in technology! The atlatls and the bow have grown into the rocket and the guided missile.

Approached in 1964 by the Department of Interior, the Station

Command was asked whether they would accept the responsibility of safeguarding Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons as a Registered National Historical Landmark. This was part of a national program begun by President John F. Kennedy. The Station did accept, and on May 22, 1965, a dedication ceremony was held.

The ancient and quiet canyons, covered with the carvings of a different culture, still challenge each visitor for interpretation. Weathering in silence, their mysterious meanings are still unclear, their secrets still unraveled. Close by are gleaming theodolites, squat radars and precision trackers while overhead jet trails line the sky. Life indeed has come full cycle to Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons.



Voyage Into Antiquity



The Classical Cruise aboard the new M.V. ARGONAUT to the ancient centers of Greece and Rome—to the scenic isles of the Ionian, Aegean and Adriatic Seas—is a true voyage into antiquity. The shores of North Africa, Turkish Asia Minor, Dalmatia and Greece are to be touched—not to mention the Mediterranean Islands of Crete, Patmos and the magical Greek Islands. Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Grecian, Persian, Spartan and Byzantine epochs are revealed as well as the medieval tempest of the Crusades and the Ottoman Empire.

This is the unfolding of history

that awaits those members of the Museum Alliance who take part in this special tour arranged by the Alliance for Spring, 1967. The luxurious cruise yacht Argonaut has been chartered by the Museum Alliance and will sail from Naples for twenty-eight days, touching thirty-four ports and returning to Naples. Special arrangements are being made to reach Naples in time for the departure. The Argonaut is a luxurious cruise yacht with capacity for 232 passengers. For this cruise, however, capacity will be limited to 150. The finest Continental cuisine will be served and two

swimming pools as well as deck games and other amenities are available for pleasurable cruising in sunny Mediterranean weather where temperatures in Spring range from the low sixties to the high seventies.

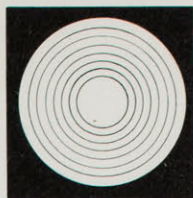
Three eminent guide-lecturers will be resident aboard the ship during its cruise and will add immeasurably to the understanding of the rich history of the regions visited. Local guides will also be retained for special trips ashore.

Those argonauts who sign on for the **Voyage Into Antiquity** next spring have the doubly pleasant prospect of a cruise through history (back to 500 B.C.) in the cradle of Western civilization—and a cruise through the beautiful Mediterranean (in Spring).

While the tour apparently is one of great complexity Museum Alliance travel know-how has reduced it to delightful simplicity for the traveler. Single passengers, or larger groups signing on, will find the cruise congenial with fellow Museum Alliance members as their companions. Extensive wardrobe is not required.

For further information contact Rudy Safran of Zenith Travel Service, DU 9-1231, or Alliance Tour Chairman, Mrs. Lawrence Irell.





MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

A Gift of Old Bones

The popular picture of a museum curator trudging through the desert to collect fossils is not the only way in which a museum obtains fine collections. Often a new curator will find material in a museum collection which has been tucked away and forgotten for several curatorial generations. When this happens, the fossil hunting expedition may well be confined to the files of old letters and field notes left over from yesteryear.

When the Vertebrate Paleontology Section moved into its present quarters, a great coming together of the pieces became possible. Small items from the old California Institute of Technology collections (which were purchased by the Museum after CIT went out of the vertebrate fossil business) came to light, and forgotten specimens were rediscovered. Many of these specimens were items that had been sent to CIT for identification or study years ago. With the death of Dr. Chester Stock, CIT's renowned vertebrate paleontologist, these specimens were mixed into the basic collection or stored away in odd boxes.

With this material was a small collection of very interesting rodent and carnivore teeth and jaws belonging to Professor George F. Beck of the Central Washington College of Education in Ellensburg. The writer recognized these specimens as a potentially important addition to the Museum's collections. They were from the early Pliocene (8-10,000,000 years old) Ellensburg formation of south central Washington. This is an area which shows great potential as a collecting

area, but one which has not been extensively explored.

Correspondence with Professor Beck revealed that the specimens at the Museum were just a small part of the collection which he had made during the years that he taught Geology at the College. Field trips with his students and week end excursions with his friends and neighbors had produced a well-documented collection of over a thousand items.

Although officially retired, Professor Beck who now lives in Yakima, Washington, continues his collecting activities and spends much of his time working in the very fine local Yakima County Museum. He expressed a willingness to present his collection to the Los Angeles County Museum where it could be properly curated and studied. In March, 1963, while returning from the Paleontological Society meetings in Seattle, the writer stopped in Yakima to visit with Professor Beck and to pack his gift of bones. It was a pleasant experience to visit with Professor Beck and discuss his collecting trips, and, to a curator about to receive a gift, an even more gratifying experience to find that a non-museum collector had kept outstanding geographical and geological data for his specimens.

At this writing the Beck Collection which includes specimens ranging from Miocene through Pliocene in age, has been sorted, identified, numbered and catalogued. There are specimens of large freshwater fish, land tortoises, birds, rabbits, squirrels, giant beavers, a mastodon-like animal known as a gom-



Mr. George F. Beck and a group of Students examining a fossil log in the cliffs along the Columbia River.

phothere, several wolf-sized dogs, mountain-lion-sized cats, a few bones of a cat that was larger than an African lion, horses, rhinos, tapirs, peccaries, medium and giant camels, pronghorned antelopes, and deer. It is a wonderful new record of the life of the past which has enriched our Museum and will form the basis for at least two scientific reports.

New Kudos for Mahood



Miss Ruth Mahood, Chief Curator of History, is the recent recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation from the Los Angeles City Schools District. The citation read:

"The Los Angeles City Schools present this certificate to Miss Ruth Mahood for meritorious service to the students and teachers of the Los Angeles City Schools. This outstanding contribution to the educational program is gratefully acknowledged . . . Jack P. Crowther, Superintendent of Schools."

The award springs from service to the schools inaugurated by Miss Mahood in 1961. Since that time she has conducted two or three institutes per year for high school history teachers. In the spring of 1965 Miss Mahood started a series of history workshops. The teachers met weekly for eight weeks at the Museum from 4-6 P.M. They have been meeting Spring and Fall ever since. The program is called "Museum Resources for Enrichment of Social Studies."

Miss Mahood has been Chief Curator of the History Division since January 1958. She came to the Museum in October, 1946, working in the Education Division. She became Curator of History in April, 1954.

Los Angeles County Museum
Exposition Park, Los Angeles 7, California
Return Requested

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